

of the Southwest Detroit Vicariate from 1970–72 and served on the Archdiocesan Pastoral Assembly, Bread for the World, Clergy Advisory Board for the Archdiocesan Office of Hispanic Affairs and Pastoral Alliance of Detroit. Since 1968, Father Samonie has been a member of a pastoral team that assists Latin-Americans and has been Guadalupe Society Director since 1963. He also has the distinction of being the first priest to serve on the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission, which investigates charges of misconduct against any State court judge.

Father Samonie's hobby is painting. His acrylic compositions are created using oils, acrylics, watercolors, and airbrush on a variety of surfaces. Angels and flowers are the pastor's favorite subjects but all of his works include messages and themes. There have been two successful exhibits of his artwork. During his retirement Father Samonie plans to concentrate on painting people and biblical scenes.

From civic duty to painting, Father Samonie has fostered beauty and kindness throughout his career. His life is a testament to the vast good a dedicated person can achieve within a community. Mr. Speaker, I call upon my colleagues to join with me in congratulating Father Samonie on his distinguished career of service and to wish him continued good health, happiness, and involvement in the many causes he holds dear.

TRIBUTE TO THE STURGIS NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM AND STURGIS FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK

**HON. FRED UPTON**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 1995*

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the fine efforts of the Sturgis Neighborhood Program and Sturgis Federal Savings Bank who were recently recognized by The Social Compact with its 1995 Outstanding Community Investment Awards. They received this honor for their partnership achievement: stabilizing lower income neighborhoods and families through the rehabilitation of affordable rental housing which is rebuilding community hope and pride.

Sturgis Neighborhood Program [SNP] was founded in 1991 in response to the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce's call for greater responsiveness to the housing needs of the city's lower income residents. The downtown business district of Sturgis, a small rural city, has a high concentration of deteriorating and substandard housing. These units, built before 1940 and converted from single-family, owner-occupied residences to multifamily properties, are rented to very-low-income families and require high maintenance. Many of the residents receive public assistance and lack necessary skills to balance their household budgets and maintain their property.

SNP combines housing rehabilitation with support services to address the needs of Sturgis citizens. Since its inception, SNP has rehabilitated five single-family homes, with numbers six and seven on the way. Tenant families are employed, receive family development guidance, and participate in maintenance

education programs. A Family Services Coordinator meets with each family on a regular basis to develop a goal-setting plan, a program that is helping families become self-sufficient, productive members of the community. I must say that SNP's Director, Judy Sommerfield, has done a wonderful job with all of the various activities of the organization.

Sturgis Federal Savings Bank, the first of four financial institutions to support SNP's mission, played a vital role in SNP's initial success. The thrift's president, Leonard Eishen, provided key financial direction and guidance in the area of administration and the development of community support, a major issue for SNP.

In order to gain community support, the nonprofit organization undertook an extensive, year-long campaign to meet with community leaders. Sturgis Federal also helped SNP with a line of credit, a \$1,000 annual grant toward operating support, low interest rates, and flexible terms. With the assistance of Sturgis Federal, SNP received \$124,000 in grants and subsidies which allowed the organization to successfully renovate five units of affordable rental housing. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority also awarded grants for the rehabilitation of the second house and subsequent projects.

By the end of SNP's 1996–97 fiscal year, it hopes to have completed 24 housing units in the targeted downtown area. These efforts improve the neighborhoods and support the local economy. Besides its partnership with Sturgis Federal, SNP has actively sought partnerships with local government, industry, business, financial institutions, youth groups, and service organizations. A network of volunteers from these groups helps to complete small projects on SNP houses.

Working together increases community pride for those who volunteer and for the individuals and families who don't want a handout but only an opportunity for a hand up. With its initial success, SNP has earned the trust of the community it serves and has become an integral part of the community's vision for improving the lives of its lower income residents.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. END G. WALDHOLTZ**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 1995*

Mrs. WALDHOLTZ. Mr. Speaker, due to a family illness, I missed votes on Wednesday, June 7. Had I been here I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 357, the rule for consideration of H.R. 1561, and "yea" on rollcall No. 359, the Hyde amendment to H.R. 1561.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION  
REAUTHORIZATION

**HON. BILL MCCOLLUM**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, June 8, 1995*

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today Mr. STENHOLM and I introduce a bill which proposes to reauthorize the Legal Services Corporation and institute major and significant re-

forms to the Corporation. Over the years we have seen extensive abuses within the Legal Services Corporation by lawyers with their own political agendas actively recruiting clients, creating claims, and advancing their own social causes. They have been involved in inappropriate lobbying, highly controversial issues like abortion litigation, and impact litigation in an attempt to socially engineer change in our laws and rules.

It is for this reason that Mr. STENHOLM and I today introduce a bill which calls for extensive reforms in the Legal Services Act. This bill will restore the very limited and appropriate Federal role in the delivery of legal services to the poor. At the same time, this bill enhances accountability and compliance for the restricted and limited activities of the Legal Services Corporation.

I will submit for the RECORD a partial section-by-section summary which outlines the reform measures included in our bill. We seek to significantly limit the activities of a Legal Services Corporation and to return its function to the original and envisioned intent, providing the bread and butter basics of legal representation for the poor of this Nation.

THE LEGAL SERVICES REFORM ACT OF 1995

In order to create a non-political, accountable and fair federal legal service program, The Legal Services Reform Act of 1995 does the following:

NON-POLITICAL

*Prohibits redistricting activity (Section 4)*

Redistricting at all levels is inherently political. Many non-federally funded organizations, including the major political parties, are actively involved in redistricting fights. No matter which party is advantaged by litigation of these matters (who is advantaged is unclear) federally funded legal services attorneys should not be involved.

*Prohibits solicitation of clients (Section 6)*

If as many poor persons are being turned away for lack of funding as the American Bar Association estimates, the only reason to solicit would be to find clients that fit the political agenda of the lawyers. Our bill specifically allows outreach to educate potential clients of their legal rights but leaves it up to clients to seek legal help.

*Prohibits lobbying or rulemaking activity (Section 8)*

Nothing is more political or creates as much controversy as lobbying. We believe the intent of Congress in 1974 was to provide poor persons access to the legal system to have their existing legal rights vindicated. There are hundreds of organizations which have competing views on what changes in the law are in the best interest of the poor. Taxpayer's should not be forced to fund any particular side of that debate.

*Prohibits the use of funds from any source for prohibited activities (Section 11)*

While Congress continues to believe that certain activities are too controversial or otherwise inappropriate for the use of federal funds—controversy will still attach to programs which engage in those activities with funds from other sources. Let the many groups of lawyers, on the right and on the left, who are not constrained by Congressional restrictions, handle the highly political cases. In our opinion, we should promote this diversity. Why give a virtual monopoly to the federally funded program?

*Prohibits abortion litigation or lobbying (Section 15)*

Abortion is probably the most volatile issue facing the country today. Organizations and activist attorneys abound on each